

Newport R. I.

Dec 3rd 1876.

W. L. Garrison.

Dear Friend.

We were appointed to address you in substance as follows:

We do so because you are an able, consistent and influential friend of the colored race, and because we know that you are such from conviction.

Your services are recognized, therefore, we address you. We are depressed; things seem sadly out of joint; we are sick at heart through hope deferred. The declarations and advancement in civilization that are true of

our country; and that may
be referred to make our condition
deplorable. They make us more
sensible as to the outrages we
endure. We know what is to be
despised, to be treated badly, to
have our rights denied; but we
had hoped not to realize the
indifference as to our rights that
is being manifested by distinguished
individuals who have been colabor-
ers with you, and to whom we
have looked as our friends. We
acknowledge our weakness arising
from poverty; from lack of culture
from being so largely in the
minority; from a lack of com-
bining qualities, and because
each generation of our countrymen
, yes, of our fellow countrymen;
have been taught to despise and
outrage us, some of us realize

the faults and shortcomings
true of the colored people; but these
faults and shortcomings are to a
very great extent the results of
the tutorage for which a dominant
class is responsible. We endure the
insults to which we are subjec-
ted with a certain degree of
complacency as resulting from a
civilization that differs from ours
in the North; but we are
astounded in beholding Northern
men the product of New Eng-
land civilization manifesting
indifference as to the weak, as
to our rights; and sympathizing
with those who are outraging
us. We read sermons, other dis-
courses, editorials issued even
in Boston that make cold chills
come over us, palliations disgrace-
ful to contemplate seemingly

preparing the way even for
slavery itself we have in mind
when the civilization line of
the South rebelled and aimed
to destroy the government; how
when Northern forces despising
the colored man strove to over-
come the rebellion without his
aid, but afterwards reluctantly
accepted the services of the
despised, we have in mind
how in the presidential contest
upon us the colored man was
told that the republican party
could get along without him,
that it had resolved to rely on
the North, but how for weeks
it has hung upon the despised
colored man as its only hope.
We have in mind how a policy
to leave us to the mercy of our
oppressor triumphed, though we

other member of the party
have stood by it under such
trying circumstances; how the
Supreme Court of the U. S. has
lately decreed that the legislation
to enforce respect for our rights
was not appropriate legislation
consequently of no effect. We see
all this and a corresponding
growing tendency to yield for
other interests, to threats and
efforts at intimidation on the part
of those who oppressed the colored
man and in whose lands in the
South so many colored men live
and from whom they receive their
subsistence, and ask if it is to
be expected that the colored man
will continue to antagonize the
South; if left by his professed
friend to its mercy? If we are
to retain only a kind of self

relation to the republican party
a relation not very unlike that
which the South exacts of the
colored man to become his de-
pendent though he is lord.

These considerations are upon
us; we submit them to you
as a friend and respectfully solicit
it - your judgment assuming that
the republican party will treat
us with the indifference lately
manifested. We profess to have
judgment and are ready to act
the part of men and do not con-
ceive it derogatory to our manhood
to seek the judgment of a friend
Kindly Yours.

Geo. J. Downing
Rev M. Van-horn
Rev Geo. L. Yipes
Rev H. N. Geler
Benj. J. Burton